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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
21 APRIL 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM
MILITARY TAKEOVER IN GREECE
(ADDENDUM TO SITUATION REPORT NUMBER 3--1700 EST)

1. KING CONSTANTINE HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR
TALBOT THAT HE WAS FORCED INTO COOPERATION WITH THE
MILITARY JUNTA NOW IN POWER IN ATHENS. HE STATED
THAT HE ONLY ACCEPTED THE NEW GOVERNMENT AFTER A
STORMY FIVE-HOUR SESSION WITH COUP LEADERS,
AND CHARACTERIZED THEM AS "STUPID, ULTRA-RIGHT-WING
BASTARDS, WHO, HAVING GAINED CONTRL OF TANKS, HAVE
BROUGHT DISASTER TO GREECE." HE CLAIMS THAT HE
CONSIDERED ORDERING LOYAL TROOPS TO FIRE ON THE
MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AT THE PALACE SWEAR-
ING-IN CEREMONY, BUT ABANDONED THE IDEA, REALIZING
THAT HIS PALACE WAS SURROUNDED BY TANKS AND OTHER
ARMOR MANNED BY TROOPS LOYAL TO THE JUNTA.

2. THE KING HAS ASKED TALBOT WHETHER THERE
IS ANY POSSIBILITY US MARINES COULD BE LANDED TO
HELP HIM AND "HIS GENERALS" RE-ESTABLISH CONTROL;
HE ASSERTS THAT GREEK TROOPS WOULD NOT FIRE ON US
PERSONNEL.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
JUNE 1999

3. CONSTANTINE BELIEVES THAT GHQ CHIEF SPANDIDAKIS KNEW "IN GENERAL" ABOUT THE PLANNED CUP, BUT WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE WHEN IT WAS IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT HIS GO-AHEAD. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, SPANDIDAKIS AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH THE JUNTA IN ASSUMING THE FIGUREHEAD POST OF DEPUTY PREMIER. THE KING IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT AND QUERIED AMBASSADOR TALBOT ABOUT PROVIDING HELICOPTERS TO EVACUATE THE ROYAL FAMILY FROM HIS PALACE AT TATOI, NORTHWEST OF ATHENS.

4. THE KING HAS ALSO ASKED TALBOT TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO "INSIST" THAT IT LIMIT ITSELF TO MAINTAINING ORDER AND FOLLOW ORDERS OF THE KING. TALBOT HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE NEW PRIME MINISTER AND INTENDS TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE NORMAL LIFE.

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